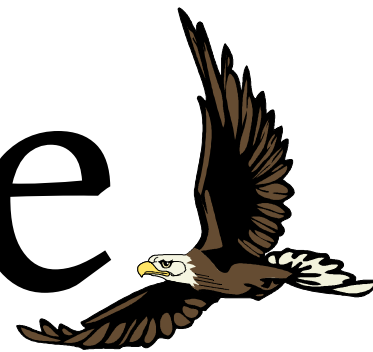


# Border Eagle



Vol. 47, No. 13

Laughlin AFB, Texas ... Training the world's best pilots

April 9, 1999

## Newsline

A glance at news affecting Laughlin

### Pilot graduation

The graduation ceremony for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 99-07 is today at 10 a.m. in the Operations Training Complex auditorium.

The guest speaker is Col. (Ret.) Charles B. DeBellevue, the Air Force's leading ace from the Southeast Asia conflict.

### Signal test

The base will test its weather and attack warning signals April 16. The test will initiate at noon and end at approximately 12:30 p.m.

A three- to five-minute wavering tone is the alert warning signal that warns of an imminent attack. A three- to five-minute steady tone warns of imminent or actual peacetime disaster that threatens public safety, such as a tornado.

A one-minute test of the alert warning system is normally conducted every Friday at noon.

### Town meeting

Col. Dan R. Goodrich, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, will preside over a Laughlin Town Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Operations Training Complex auditorium.

The major topic of discussion will be the base's involvement in current world events.

The community is encouraged to attend this informative meeting.

**See 'Newsline,' page 20**

### Monthly Flying Goal

	T-37	T-1	T-38
Goal	3732	965	1529
Remain	3155	833	1239
Delta*	+312	-102	+108

Information current as of April 7.  
\*Sorties ahead/ behind schedule

## Operations officer assumes command of all-reserve FTS

By Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

Public affairs

Lt. Col. John J. O'Connor II assumed command of the 96th Flying Training Squadron April 2 in a ceremony on the flight line here.

The 96th is an all-reserve unit and the first Air Force squadron to provide Student Undergraduate Pilot Training in three trainer aircraft: the T-37, T-38 and the T-1.

O'Connor took the reins of command after serving as the full-time reserve operations officer since the squadron's activation on the base in June 1998.

In 1995, O'Connor was selected as commander of the Tanker Airlift Control Element at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, where he had been a C-5A Galaxy aircraft commander since 1989. He was recalled to active duty in 1990 during the Gulf War and served as special envoy to the Central Command Airlift Operations Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

O'Connor has a master's degree in economics from the University of Utah and recently completed Air War College. He has more than 2,000 hours of flying experience in the F-4 Phantom, the C-5 Galaxy and the T-1 Jayhawk.

Since joining the 96 FTS, the base's newest squadron commander has built the squadron to more than 50 instructor pilots. He expects more growth and increased effectiveness from the squadron.

**See 'Command,' page 12**



Photo by Jim Teet

Col. Patrick Collins, 340th Flying Training Group commander, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, prepares to pass the guidon and command of the 96th Flying Training Squadron to Lt. Col. John O'Connor at the assumption of command ceremony April 2.

## Base Financial Analysis Office named best in AETC

By 2nd Lt. Will Tarrant

47th Comptroller Flight

Top Dollar – until recently, this phrase referred solely to the financial management world's contingency training and exercises. However, it now has a new meaning to the 47th Comptroller Flight's Financial Analysis Office, otherwise known as "Budget."

The office has been named the "Top Dollar," or best Financial Analysis Office, in Air Education and Training Com-

mand for Fiscal Year 1998. Col. Dan R. Goodrich, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, accepted the award for the office at the recent AETC Commander's Conference, and made the presentation at the wing staff meeting last week.

Maj. Dallas N. Newsome, 47 FTW Comptroller, said, "Virginia Anderson (chief of Financial Analysis) runs a tight ship, and has a knack for getting the most out of her folks."

This is evident if you look behind

the scenes at what occurred leading up to the office winning the award. Within the scope of one year, the office overcame multiple challenges and the loss of several key personnel to retirement, intrabase moves and transfers to other commands. The office was staffed almost completely by military cross-trainees from former career fields such as aircraft maintenance and civil engineering. Despite the difference in former job titles, everyone pulled

**See 'Top dollar,' page 9**

## t inside h scoop e

### People first ...

Air Force focuses on skill, knowledge and ability, not disability, when hiring civilian employees.

**Page 2**

### Benken retires ...

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric Benken announces retirement after more than 29 years of service.

**Page 3**

### Airman leadership ...

Senior airmen take a huge step towards becoming leaders of the future through a six-week course.

**Page 6**

# Laughlin Partnership Council encourages problem solving

Laughlin's Partnership Council is responsible for ensuring open, honest, constructive communication between the Air Force and civil service employees.

On October 1, 1993, President Bill Clinton issued Executive Order 12871, which established the concept of partnership councils for the Executive Branch of the government. The basis for this executive order, the National Performance Review, identified labor-management partnerships as key elements in the president's goal of achieving an effective, efficient and more responsive government that works better and costs less.

As a direct result of that executive order, the base established its own partnership council in August 1994. The purpose of the partnership council is to support base efforts to work together, in order to avoid lengthy and costly negotiations and confrontational proceedings. Instead of paying lawyers to work out disagreements between management and labor, the partnership council is working out solutions.

For this program to work, a mind-set is required from labor and management to find cooperative solutions to Laughlin's priority accomplishing the flying training mission while taking care of the people who make it possible.

"The council is an avenue that management and union use to resolve issues that affect our employees at Laughlin," said Raul Castorena, American Federation of Government Employees Local 1749 union president and one of the founding fathers of Laughlin's partnership council. "Through Partnership, we take care of

our major resources such as employees, job security and better working conditions – thereby making the mission more efficient."

Labor and management are not abandoning the bargaining unit. The partnership council is a proactive avenue to make changes for the better, and it gives management and labor a forum in which to work together. Through the work of the council, the issues faced by labor and management won't have two sides; they will have one solution. And a solution agreed upon by the council becomes a common effort for all of Laughlin.

You and I have a voice with the partnership council. All you need to do is talk to one of the council members and have him or her voice your concern. There are 10 members, each party having five primary representatives and five alternates. They work in various positions throughout the base. The partnership members meet once a month to discuss ways to make the Laughlin team more effective.

Why should you care about this partnership council? According to Col. David Bertholf, 47th Support Group commander, "The Partnership Council keeps the lines of communication open and works to prevent or solve problems for the betterment of all. That will help us make Laughlin a better place to live and work for everyone."

How can you get involved? Talk to one of the members, share your ideas and, if appropriate, ask for your ideas to appear on the agenda. You may even attend a council meeting if duty requirements allow.

**See 'Council,' page 12**

## Planning actions to safely escape flash floods

### Capt. Joe Schwarz

*47th Operations Support Squadron*

Flash floods are the number one weather-related killer in the U.S. with approximately 140 deaths recorded each year.

Many of us have seen first-hand the destructive force of water running wild.

Here are some safety rules that can reduce the risk of becoming a flood fatality.

If you are located in an area that has been ordered to evacuate, do so

immediately. If you are caught outdoors and flash flooding is occurring or forecast to occur, seek shelter on higher ground as quickly as possible. In Texas, flash flooding can occur even in areas that have received little or no rain.

Low lying areas, canyons, streams, and dry riverbeds are especially susceptible to flash flooding.

The large majority of deaths caused by flash flooding are due to people driving through flooded areas. Water only one foot deep can

displace 1,500 pounds! Two feet of water can EASILY carry most automobiles! Never drive through flooded areas, even if it looks shallow enough to cross. It is important to remember that roadways concealed by floodwaters may not be intact.

The greatest threat of severe weather in southwest Texas is from March through August; however, life-threatening weather can occur at any time of the year. Having a plan of action can mean the difference between life and death!

## People First:

### *People with disabilities are integral part of Air Force*

Civilian employees with disabilities have been and continue to be an integral part of the total Air Force family. In fact, the secretary of defense has a 2-percent goal for the employment of people with certain disabilities.

The following disabilities are "targeted" for emphasis in affirmative-action planning: deafness, blindness, missing extremities, partial paralysis, complete paralysis, convulsive disorders, mental retardation, mental illness and genetic or physical conditions that affect limbs or the spine.

The Air Force employs 1,560 civilians with disabilities – 1.17 percent of the workforce. This is a 29-percent decrease from a high of 2,203 employees, or 1.38 percent, in 1993. The services are losing these people to voluntary and involuntary separations at a high rate, and at the same time are not bringing in other qualified people with disabilities.

Of the 886 civil-service employees in the Laughlin work force, 12 percent are people with disabilities, according to Sabrina Baker, the people with disabilities program manager here.

Civilian personnel officials have made it a priority to invest in the best and brightest, focusing on the knowledge, skills and abilities employees with disabilities bring to the job. To help meet the secretary of defense's 2-percent employment goal for people with disabilities, managers and supervisors are encouraged to look beyond traditional sources to fill vacancies.

There are five special hiring authorities for people with disabilities. Four apply to all persons with disabilities; the other is specifically for veterans who are 30-percent or more disabled. Civilian personnel flights can help supervisors select and provide more information on hiring practices for people with disabilities.

(AFNS)

## Actionline

Call 298-5351

when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

*Dan R. Goodrich*  
**Col. Dan R. Goodrich**

*47th Flying Training Wing commander*



AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Social Actions	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170



## Border Eagle

Col. Dan R. Goodrich  
Commander  
1st Lt. Angela O'Connell  
Public Affairs officer  
Senior Airman Mike Hammond  
Editor

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**Deadlines, Advertising**

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, Ext. 5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.** Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday. Submissions can be E-mailed to: michael.hammond@laughlin.af.mil or reginald.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

***“Excellence –  
not our goal, but  
our standard.”***

– 47 FTW motto

**Safety Stats**

As of March 22  
(Fiscal Year)

	'99	Total '98
On-duty mishaps	1	11
Off-duty mishaps	7	7
Traffic mishaps	1	4
Sports & Rec mishaps	3	3
Fatalities	0	2

# Chief Benken announces retirement

**WASHINGTON** – Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric W. Benken announced his retirement April Wednesday after more than 2 1/2 years in the job, and more than 29 years of service. A formal ceremony is scheduled for July 30 at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

“The toughest decision in my career was to recommend to (Air Force Chief of Staff) General (Michael E.) Ryan that I retire this summer,” Benken said. “I have worked with him for several years, to include our tenure in U.S. Air Forces Europe, and I think we make a great team.”

The chief explained there are several reasons for retiring this summer. By the time he retires, he will have been on the job for nearly three years, a stint longer than most of his predecessors.

“My original tenure was to be two years with (former Air Force Chief of Staff) General (Ronald R.) Fogleman,” Benken said. “Circumstances changed, and General Ryan came on board. If I stayed with him through his entire term, it would mean five years on the job. And that is way too long in the position for my family and especially for the force.”

Benken said he also has strong feelings about extending beyond the 30-year mark.

“There are many Vietnam-era chiefs like myself who would like to stay beyond 30 years,” he said. “I have asked them not to do that so we can make room for the



Photo courtesy AFNS

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric W. Benken announced his retirement Wednesday. The Air Force's top enlisted man will retire after a nearly 30-year career, serving more than 2 1/2 years in his current position.

younger troops to move up. It would be inappropriate for me to do something I have asked my fellow chiefs not to do.”

The chief began his career in 1970 as an administrative specialist, known today

as an information manager. He served in locations such as Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea, Belgium, Germany and several bases throughout the United States. He became the 12th chief master sergeant of the Air Force in November 1996, coming into the position after serving as the USAFE senior enlisted adviser. “Chief Benken has been a great chief master sergeant of the Air Force,” said Ryan. “Knowing he was my adviser on enlisted issues has meant peace of mind for me. He tackled many tough issues in particularly tough times for our Air Force.”

“Chief Benken has served his country superbly for more than 29 years,” Ryan continued. “Through it all, he has been a shining example of our core values – he has served with great integrity. He has always put his service before himself, and he has excelled in everything he’s done.”

“I am grateful for his wise counsel and steadfast support,” Ryan said. “On behalf of everyone in our Air Force, I thank him ... and I salute him.”

“My wife, Jane, and I wish the chief, his wife, Johnne, and the Benken family the very best life has to offer.”

Ryan also said that the process of nominating the 13th chief master sergeant of the Air Force will begin soon.

(AFPN)

## Cape Canaveral Titan team makes last launch

**CAPE CANAVERAL AIR STATION, Fla.** – The Air Force and Lockheed Martin Astronautics launch team is set to launch a Titan IV/B rocket carrying a Defense Support Program spacecraft from Space Launch Complex 41 here today.

Air Force Space Command-operated DSP satellites are a key part of North America's early warning systems. In their 19,320-mile geosynchronous orbits, DSP satellites help protect the United States and its allies by detecting missile launches, space launches and nuclear detonations.

This will be the final Titan IV launch from Complex 41. The complex is being deactivated and turned over to Lockheed Martin for the company's evolved expendable launch vehicle program. It will take 150 days to deactivate the pad. This includes work such as draining, purging, and cleaning propellant and propane storage tanks. Lockheed Martin Astronautics plans to dismantle and remove the mobile service tower, umbilical tower and most of the ground-support equipment. It will then install ground equipment to support the Atlas V — its EELV.

“There is a lot of history at Complex 41,” said Brig. Gen. Randy Starbuck, 45th Space Wing commander. “In addition to

our military launches, this is where we launched two Viking missions to Mars, and sent the two Voyager satellites to visit the outer planets. But, our primary concern is to get this mission launched safely. It takes an incredibly talented team of professionals to make this happen.”

The launch marks the return to flight of the Titan IV from here after the Aug. 12 mishap involving a Titan IV/A carrying a National Reconnaissance Office satellite. It was the last scheduled launch for the “A” model.

The results of the accident investigation board inquiry indicated electrical shorts in the vehicle power supply wiring harness most likely caused the vehicle to catastrophically fail 41 seconds into powered flight. The shorts originated in the second stage of the core vehicle.

“We have had an accident, we determined the most likely cause, and we implemented corrective actions,” said Lt. Col. Anthony Goins, 3rd Space Launch Squadron commander. “From the technicians on the pad to the senior levels of the Air Force, the attitude is now ‘it’s time to go fly.’”

(AFPN)

# SUPT Class 99-07 ready to fly



**Class Leader**  
**Capt. William B. Thompson**  
Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.  
F-15E



**Assistant Class Leader**  
**Capt. Michael J. Lee**  
Ramstein AB, Germany  
C-21



**Capt. Samuel N. Blunt**  
Charleston AFB, S.C.  
C-17



**Capt. Darren R. DeRoss**  
McChord AFB, Wash.  
C-141



**Capt. John O. Howard**  
Travis AFB, Calif.  
KC-10



**Capt. Stephen F. Smith**  
Tinker AFB, Okla.  
E-3



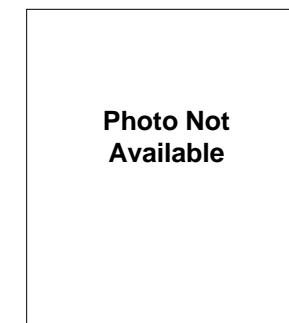
**Capt. Dennis R. Veeneman**  
Grandforks AFB, N.D.  
KC-135



**1st Lt. Kazuo Inoue**  
Japan  
T-2



**1st Lt. Yashuhiro Matsumoto**  
Japan  
T-2



**1st Lt. Ryohei Nakashima**  
Japan  
T-2



**1st Lt. Christopher L. Penningroth**  
Luke AFB, Ariz.  
F-16



**1st Lt. Manuel Soto Berlin**  
Mexico  
L-90



**2nd Lt. Marcos A. Casco**  
Paraguay  
T-27



**2nd Lt. Matthew J. Long**  
Offutt AFB, Neb.  
C-21



**2nd Lt. Neil P. McCracken**  
Laughlin AFB, Texas  
T-37



**2nd Lt. Joel W. Morris**  
McGuire AFB, N.J. (AFRES)  
C-141



**2nd Lt. Michael A. Mundy**  
Dover AFB, Del. (AFRES)  
C-5



**2nd Lt. Skye R. Nakayama**  
Offutt AFB, Neb.  
RC-135



**2nd Lt. Timothy J. Peterson**  
Duluth, Minn. (ANG)  
F-16



**2nd Lt. Andrew D. Poorman**  
Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.  
F-15



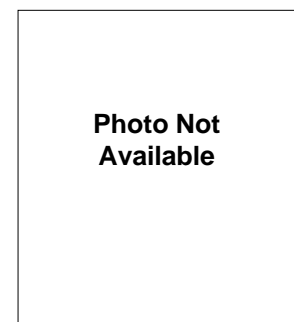
**2nd Lt. Daniel J. Rubera**  
Fairchild AFB, Wash.  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Michael R. Shepherd**  
Laughlin AFB, Texas  
T-38



**2nd Lt. Sean S. Sullivan**  
Laughlin AFB, Texas  
T-37



**2nd Lt. Marvin D. Van Huisduinen**  
Suriname  
C-212



**2nd Lt. Heath Wimberley**  
Luke AFB, Texas  
F-16

## The *XLer*

**Hometown:** San Antonio, Texas.

**Family:** Son, Kevin Gonzales, 5 months old.

**Time at Laughlin:** 1 year, 1 month.

**Time in service:** 1 year, 5 months.

**Why did you join the Air Force?** In hope of finishing my college degree in Engineering.

**Name one way to improve life at Laughlin or in the Air Force:** Move the base closer to a bigger city.

**Greatest accomplishment:** Joining the Air Force.

**Long-term goals:** To be a good mother, get married, finish school, speak better English and retire from the Air Force.

**Motto:** I can do it!

**Hobbies:** Draw, read, write and play with my son.

**If you could spend one hour with any person in history, who would it be? Why?**

Jesus. I would ask what he thinks of us.



**Airman 1st Class  
Esperanza Gonzalez**  
*85th Flying Training Squadron*

## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic

-Daily Mass 12:05 p.m.  
-Saturday Mass 5 p.m.  
-Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.  
-Confession 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.

Saturday or by appointment.

-Choir 6 p.m. Thursdays.  
-Sunday school, 11 a.m., religious education building.

### Protestant

-General worship 11 a.m.  
-Bible study video luncheon

11 a.m. Thursday, chapel fellowship hall.

-Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., religious education building.

-Awana, Wednesdays, chapel from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

(For more information on AWANA, call Mike or Karen Silver at 298-3247.)

### Jewish

- Max Stool  
219 West Strickland St.  
Del Rio, Texas  
Phone: 775-4519

*For more information on chapel events and services, call 5111.*







# Family (Fun)



Laughlin families turned out in force to enjoy beautiful weather and the Easter holiday during Saturday's Family Day at the Fiesta Center. (Pictured counterclockwise from top left): Devyn Reyna pulls Colton House during the parade; Sabrina Perez gets her face painted at one of the many entertainment booths; Master Sgt. Raymond Alexander takes a moment with his daughter, Raven, after the Easter egg hunt; Neil Higgins shows off his Easter wagon for the parade; Brian Jarman gives the Easter Bunny a big hug; Gerome Harris joins the hunt for Easter eggs; and Grace Erwin dances up a storm during the cakewalk. (Photos by 1st Lt. Angela O'Connell and Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff)



# Day





# Wake up to fire prevention before you wake to flames

**By John Alexander**

*47th Civil Engineering Squadron*

More than 10 people die every day in home fires in the United States. Thousands of people are injured and many fire victims are disfigured for life. Fires don't give warnings, so you must know what to do before a fire breaks out.

Preparation begins with giving you and your family time to get away from a home fire. The number of people who die in house fires has been cut 25 percent since 1985. Firefighters attribute this reduction to the growing use of smoke detectors.

You are in the greatest danger of death or injury in a fire when you're asleep. Fire seldom awakens people. Smoke and fumes are more likely to suffocate people while they are asleep. Therefore, fire officials say smoke detectors are the most effective, low-cost warning device available.

Years of research and investigation show that properly installed smoke detectors cut the risk of death in a home fire by half. All smoke detectors are equally effective, as long as they are approved by Underwriters Laboratory. Some smoke detectors use an ionization sensor while others operate on a photoelectric sensor. Check the battery in each smoke detector once a month and replace the battery at least once every year. Remember to dust or vacuum smoke detectors to keep the vents and particle detection mechanism clean.

More than half of all fire victims die of smoke inhalation and suffocation, rather than the fire itself. A smoke detector in

each sleeping area is important because most people who die in home fires are not in the room where the fire begins. A detector will give warning before a person can detect any odor of smoke.

Fire can lead to tragedy in just a few seconds. A spark or flame will consume the air supply and generate lethal smoke that overpowers and kills victims faster than the fire itself.

Flammables such as grease, oils and gasoline ignite extremely fast and

burn furiously. Flames use up oxygen in the air and replace it with highly toxic carbon monoxide gas. Smoke also includes soot and harmful gases. This dangerous mixture builds and expands in seconds. It often poisons or suffocates victims trapped in a building where the flames don't cause damage.

If fire breaks out, fight it only if it's small and hasn't spread beyond the point where it started. If it is confined enough to be attacked with a portable fire extinguisher, try to put it out. Don't try to extinguish a fire that has started to spread, is giving off smoke or if the flames are higher than your knees! Act fast to shut the door on it, alert everyone else in the building and sound the alarm telling everyone to get out. Get out yourself and call 911 for the fire department. Never let a fire come between you and your escape route. If there's any

chance of flames or smoke reaching you, don't use a phone in the building.

If you are in a house or building that catches fire, make sure it is safe to leave through the doorway. Follow these procedures:

■ if there may be fire on the other side of a closed door, drop to the floor. There is less smoke at floor level;

■ touch the doorknob or the door with the back of your hand

(your palm is highly sensitive and you could burn it badly);  
■ if the handle or door is

hot, do not open it! Instead put a towel or clothing at the bottom opening to keep smoke out.

■ If it's not hot, open the door slowly. If there's a rush of smoke or heat, close it again and shout to alert others inside.

■ Open the window and shout "Fire."

■ Jump to the ground (if you are not on the ground level, break your fall by pushing a mattress or bedding out first. Lower yourself at arms length before dropping.)

■ Once outside, stay out and make sure the fire department is called.

Begin now to prepare your family for a fire. Install smoke detectors and make sure they work. Plan escape routes and practice them with everyone. Know when to fight and when to escape if a fire breaks out – and don't hesitate! You may only have a few seconds to avoid tragedy.

---

***You are in the greatest danger of death or injury in a fire when you're asleep.***

---



Firefighters don't just put out fires – they teach ways to prevent them. Call the base fire department at 5194 to learn about fire prevention Call them today before you need them right away.



**‘Top dollar,’ from page 1**

together and did what had to be done to keep money in the right places to train pilots and support the Laughlin mission.

The year started with a bang because nearly all the base accounting functions were moved to San Antonio to a consolidated accounting operation location in late Fiscal Year 1997. This was a great exercise in patience for the office and the rest of the flight, as they were required to communicate with people 150 miles away to do the same job that was previously being done in-house.

The next major test was the April 1998 Operational Readiness Inspection. FMA, under Anderson’s direction, overcame a personnel challenge and

earned an “Outstanding” rating despite less than optimal manning situation. Where there are usually four civilians and four experienced military members in the office with Anderson, she had only two civilians and three military members. Two of the military were cross-trainees and one had been in the Air Force for less than a year. Lack of experience was no match for their enthusiasm.

One of the cross-trainees, Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson, developed a program automating the process of matching general accounting system targets with supply system targets that earned a command “Best Practice” – a recognition of the program as the best seen in that field yet by the inspectors.

Another challenge the office

experienced (and one faced by the entire base) was the August flood. Since it occurred near the end of the fiscal year, the costs associated with it threatened to affect Laughlin’s end-of-year spending plans. However, with the help of many people around the base, they consolidated nearly all of the costs associated with the flood within three days and reported them to the AETC Comptroller. This ensured

timely reimbursement for the flood damage and allowed the wing to complete all of its planned purchases.

But all of this hard work wasn’t done entirely by the FMA office. “This award is the direct result of a wing-wide effort,” Anderson noted. “It begins with the cost center managers in each section on base and flows up to the resource advisers. If not for them and the rest of the Comp-

troller Flight, our analysts couldn’t do the job they do.”

Without outstanding teamwork and dedication to the job, Financial Analysis would have had a much harder time getting the necessary information to keep the money flowing throughout the wing. Our mission – to provide the funding, along with the financial advice and guidance, to train the “world’s best pilots.”

# Airman Leadership School – more than it used to be

**By Chief Master Sgt. Randy Crist**

*47th Flying Training Wing  
Command Chief Master Sgt.*

Airman Leadership School has come a long way since the days of the Noncommissioned Officer Orientation and NCO Supervisors Courses.

Those of us who have been around a while need only look at today’s modern classrooms to note striking differences: rows of computer systems with full internet access link the students to the world outside the gate and all its information; audiovisual technology allows you to see how you look while giving a speech (granted, not always a pleasant experience), and, the Air Force presentation tool of choice, Power Point and other software put today’s students far ahead of their predecessors.

Believe it or not, some of us still remember the “dos and don’ts” of a different era of technology: the art of swapping overhead slides (“never ever leave a blank screen”), flipcharts (“don’t talk to the chart – talk to your audience!”), and the enthusiastic use

of the ever-reliable emphasis tool – the pointer. (Remember those? Most of them looked like pool cues, but if you were in a command with real money, you had one of those aluminum, telescoping things that looked like a car antenna – “you’re gonna poke your eye out with that thing, airman!”). But, I digress...

Like the operational Air Force, the technological advances within Professional Military Education in the last 20 years are nothing less than astounding. However, these are not the most important changes. The most important changes have to do with people (airmen!) and increased levels of responsibility.

Today’s ALS students complete a curriculum very similar to what NCO Leadership School students did only a few years ago. This shouldn’t be too surprising to anyone; senior airmen are now filling supervisory and crew chief positions previously filled by ‘Staffs and ‘Techs’, in virtually every career field in the Air Force.

And it’s no coincidence that completion of ALS is now a mandatory prerequisite to sewing on

that Staff stripe. With levels of responsibility steadily increasing in the senior airmen/junior NCO grades, the Air Force recognized the need to provide the tools to fulfill those responsibilities. The answer to this need: Airman Leadership School.

More important than the diplomas, plaques and new friendships that ALS graduates come home with are the real “tools of the trade” for Air Force supervisors and leaders: enhanced skills in communication, counseling and time management, as well as a sharper perspective on Air Force standards and the methods of effectively maintaining those standards. And let’s not forget the bonus areas: Air Force history, customs and courtesies – those things that are key to instilling teamwork and esprit de corps, and yet somehow, without a motivated (and educated!) leader, can be easily lost in the tempo of everyday operations.

These tools are the real reward for an ALS graduate; they are the ground-floor foundation for his or her success as a future leader in the Air Force.

## Students say ALS ‘scary’

**Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff**

*Public Affairs*

Attending Airman Leadership School can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience, but it can also be intimidating.

“I enjoyed the school so much,” said Senior Airman Roxanne I. Cortez, 87th Flying Training Squadron and student commander. “I had to remind myself sometimes – ‘hey you’re actually learning.’ I credit that to the instructors – Staff Sgt. (Robert) Nolen and Staff Sgt. (Sarah) Jeantete. They taught us to use good listening skills, how to give feed back, recognizing strengths and weaknesses, and most importantly, the importance of teamwork.”

“Before this school, I never realized how important it is to be a supervisor,” said Cortez. “They made me so aware of the importance that I’m a little scared about supervising someone. However, they’ve given me the tools I need to succeed so I’m ready for the challenge.”

Senior Airman David R. Reeves, 47th Comptroller Flight, shared the same enthusiasm and fear as Cortez.

“I enjoyed the school a lot,” said Reeves. “We had tremendous camaraderie. We watched out for each other. I have to admit it’s scary when you think about how much work goes into being a good supervisor,” he added. “It’s definitely not a nine-to-five. I know I’m getting a sharp airman when I get back and that scares me more because I have to really be sharp. I learned that no one has all the answers – we can help each other.”

Some people consider fear a weakness, but it’s probably safe to say the Air Force is a little stronger because of the fear the students of 99-A gained at ALS.



‘Command,’ from page 1

“We hope to increase the number of instructor pilots we have to 110,” said O’Connor. “We want to bring back older, more experienced instructor pilots with more combat time, flying time and operations development time on average. The insight of the older instructors and the enthusiasm of the younger instructors will give students the best chance to succeed.”

The obstacles facing an organization like the 96th don’t daunt O’Connor.

“Billeting, transportation, full-time housing and the competition with the airlines are major obstacles that we have to over-

come, but we’re doing it. We’re selecting only the best candidates and developing an all-star team. You would be amazed at the caliber of people we are building the squadron with,” he said.

The base and the local community are two of the major selling points for many of the pilots.

“Laughlin is a beautiful base with outstanding facilities, and Del Rio has that small hometown atmosphere,” O’Connor said. “You feel welcome and get to know people.”

O’Connor welcomes any interested pilots to join his organization, where the commander believes – “you should have fun, work hard, enjoy what you’re doing and watch yourself succeed.”

‘Council,’ from page 2

*Partnership Council Management and Labor primary and alternate members are:*

Labor		Management	
<i>Primary Members</i>	<i>Alternate Members</i>	<i>Primary Members</i>	<i>Alternate Members</i>
Raul Castorena	Rudy Rodriguez	Col. David J. Bertholf	Lt. Col. David Guthrie
Mario Villarreal	Tony Saldana	Lt. Col. Gary Fellows	Marilyn Couch
Rafael Castorena	Jaime Limas	Bob Wood	Jeffrey Sukalski
Frank Velasquez	Gilbert Vargas	Amado Carrillo	Joe Gonzalez
Carlos H. Trevino	Richard Chavez	Brenda McCain	Rosemary Capozziello

Fraud, Waste and Abuse

*Preventing Fraud, Waste and Abuse is everyone’s job!  
If you suspect FWA, call the hotline at 4170.*

# How has daylight savings time affected your routine?



“Because the sun will stay out longer, I’ll have to go running later at night to avoid the heat.”

**Capt. David Young**  
47th Flying Training Wing  
Staff Judge Advocate office



“It allows me the extra time I need to get all my tasks done at the end of the working day – especially all my yard work which there never seems to be enough time to accomplish.”

**Brenda M. McCain**  
47th Mission Support Squadron  
Flight Chief, Civilian Personnel Flight



“Usually, when people lose an hour of sleep they tend to become more cranky. However, since I already have an irritable nature, I don’t think anyone will notice.”

**Kevin Broussard**  
47th Flying Training Wing  
Chief, Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor



“With more sunlight during the day, I feel great knowing that I can do things without having to worry that darkness would affect my activities so soon after work.”

**Airman 1st Class Sang Scott**  
47th Mission Support Squadron  
Personnel Administration

## Intramural bowling standings

Rank/Team	W	L
1. SVS	126	63
2. SFS	124	65
3. OSS	113	76
4. CS	99.5	89.5
5. SIM	93.5	95.5
6. MSS	75	114
7. CES	65	124
8. MDG	60	129

### Schedule for Thursday:

MSS	vs	CES
MDG	vs	CS
SVS	vs	SFS
CS	vs	SIM

Be active in your unit ...  
Support the intramural sports program!

## 1999 Intramural volleyball schedule (Revision one)

<i>Monday</i>	<i>April 20</i>
6 p.m. – 84/85th vs 86th	6 p.m. – 84/85th vs LCSAM
7 p.m. – LCSAM vs CES	7 p.m. – 86th vs MDG #1
8 p.m. – MDG #1 vs MSS	8 p.m. – MDG #2 vs CES
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>April 22</i>
6 p.m. – MDG #2 vs 87th	6 p.m. – CS/CONS/SVS vs CES
7 p.m. – CS/CONS/SVS vs OSS	7 p.m. – 86th vs OSS
8 p.m. – 86th vs LCSAM	8 p.m. – MDG #1 vs MDG #2
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>April 26</i>
6 p.m. – 84/85 vs OSS	6 p.m. – 84/85th vs 87th
7 p.m. – CS/CONS/SVS vs 87th	7 p.m. – OSS vs MSS
8 p.m. – MDG #2 vs MSS	8 p.m. – MDG #2 vs LCSAM
<i>April 19</i>	<i>April 22</i>
6 p.m. – MDG #1 vs CES	6 p.m. – CS/CONS/SVS vs CES
7 p.m. – CS/CONS/SVS vs MSS	7 p.m. – 86th vs OSS
8 p.m. – OSS vs 87th	8 p.m. – MDG #1 vs MDG #2



### Easter parade

The Integrated Delivery System Subcommittee is sponsoring a parade and egg hunt this Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The parade starts at 9 a.m. and will go from the Chapel to the Fiesta Center. Parents are encouraged to decorate their children's strollers, bicycles and skates. Prizes will be awarded in different age categories.

An Easter egg hunt follows the parade at 10 a.m. and ends when the last egg is found.

The Security Forces will have a weapons display and canine demonstration. The Fire Department's "hot" smokehouse will be on display. Sparky, the Fire Dog, and McGruff, the Crime Dog, will also be on hand.

Attendees can enjoy fajitas, hot dogs, sausage and baked goods.

For more information, call Christine Engel at 6495 or the Fiesta Center at 5474.

### New pharmacy hours

An evaluation of the demand for prescriptions between 7 - 7:30 a.m. has revealed that the number of prescriptions filled during these times does not reflect

efficient utilization of staffing.

In view of this, and current and projected staffing decreases, the clinic will make the following changes to its pharmacy hours effective Monday:

Monday - Tuesday: 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For questions concerning the pharmacy, call Capt. Deryck Hill at 6451.

### Youth camp

Laughlin's St. Francis of Assisi Catholic community will hold their weekend youth camp May 21 - 23 at the H.E.B. Foundation camp grounds near Leakey, Texas. The cost of attending the camp is \$35.

Sign-up has started and will end Monday. Payment is due at sign-up.

Call Leslee Eastwood at 298-5111 for further information.

### OB/GYN move

The 47th Medical Group is temporarily relocating OB/GYN services into the Primary Care Clinic starting Monday. This move will improve the overall effectiveness and versatility of our medical personnel and ensure the highest quality of care for all patients.

The quantity and variety of services presently being rendered to OB/GYN and Primary Care patients will remain unchanged.

Questions concerning this issue may be addressed to Lt. Col. Kathy Higgins at 6314.

### Charity golf tournament

The 5th Annual Ayude Golf Tournament will be held on May 1 to benefit the Hungry Kids International Children's Orphanages. There is a \$30 entry fee that includes half cart, breakfast, brisket plate lunch and drinks. Greens fees are an additional charge.

Teams will be four-man select-shot. Prizes totaling \$300 will be given to the top three teams in the tournament.

To sign up, call Tommy Sondag at 5328.

### Library programs

The Book Mark Library is currently offering the following programs:

Story Time - volunteer-conducted reading program for children;

Internet access - access provided by Park College at four terminals on a first-come, first served basis;

YMCA Young Readers Program - essay contest for readers in different age groups.

If you are interested in any of these programs, call 5119.

### Scholarships

The Laughlin Officer's Spouses' Club and USPA/IRA are offering scholarships to military dependents who are graduating or have graduated from a local accredited high school. In addition, the OSC is offering scholarships to active duty or reserve military E-4 and below and spouses of active duty or reserve military personnel assigned to Laughlin.

All scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievement, leadership and citizenship. High school seniors may obtain guidelines and applications through counseling offices of Del Rio, Brackettville, Eagle Pass, Uvalde and Comstock high schools. Guidelines for military and spouses are available in the Base Education Office.

Call 289-1374 for more information.

### More scholarships

The Xi Phi Sorority has two \$250 college scholarships available. Anyone may apply. Applications are available at South West Texas Junior College or Sul Ross University financial aid offices. The deadline for applications is April 30.

Call 774-3977 for more information.

### Golf tournament

The 28th Annual Commander's Golf Tournament is being held April 16-18 at the base course. There are still spots available.

If interested, please call Wing Protocol at 5689.

### Health care forum

The Health Care Advisory Council will meet at 1 p.m. today in the wing conference room. This is an excellent opportunity for the community to express their satisfaction with or concerns about health care at Laughlin.

Representatives from most base organizations and from the retired population meet with members of the Clinic Executive Committee once a quarter on an informal basis.

Call Mina Rodriguez at 6311 for additional information or to indicate attendance.

### Civilian employee transactions

The Air Force Personnel Center announced that all civilian employees serviced by them can now complete the following transactions via the BEST website:

- elections under "New Permanent Employees and Temporary Employees Completing One year of Continuous Federal Service;"
- changes and, or elections under "Federal Employee Health Benefits Non-Open Season Enrollment/Changes in Enrollment;"
- complete and print the "Statement of Foster Child Status;"
- obtain the necessary forms to enroll in "Temporary Continuation of Coverage."

### Financial management classes

The Family Support Center's Personal Financial Management Program manager is offering the following classes in the coming weeks:

- Budget workshop, 9 - 10 a.m. Tuesday, Personal Financial Management program for 1st Termers, 1- 2:30 p.m. April 9,
- Understanding Credit, 9 - 10 a.m. April 13.
- Understanding Credit and Budgeting, 8 - 9:30 a.m. May 6.
- Basic Investing, 9 - 10 a.m. May 14.
- Bundles for Babies, 1 - 2:30 p.m. May 21.
- Classes will be held at the FSC; spouses are welcome.
- Call 5109 to schedule.

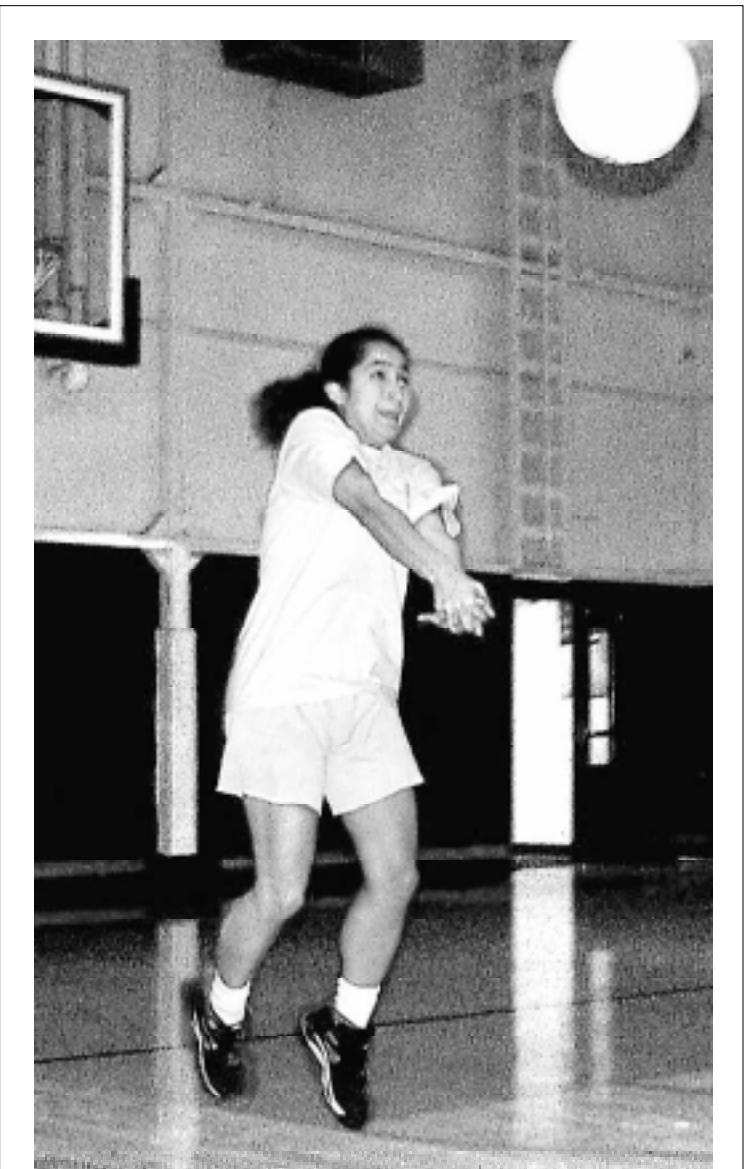


Photo by Senior Airman Mike Hammond

### School's in session

Senior Airman Roxanne Cortez, 87th Flying Training Squadron and student commander for Airman Leadership School Class 99-A, prepares a two-fisted return during a contest between the ALS students and the base's 'Top Three' Tuesday at the XL Fitness Center. The students may have learned a lesson in humility, as they were bested by the savvy veterans 2-1 in a three game series.